

**Easterling, Deborah**

233520

**From:** Easterling, Deborah  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 15, 2011 1:29 PM  
**To:** 'Knotts, Jeff'  
**Cc:** Duke, Daphne; Wheat, Jo  
**Subject:** RE: Duke Energy Rate Increase - Public Hearings

Dear Mr. Knotts

This is to acknowledge receipt of your email to the Public Service Commission. I am forwarding your email to our Clerk's Office for processing. Your email and written presentation will become a part of Docket No. 2011-271-E and will be posted on our website under this docket.

Please let me know if you should require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Deborah Easterling  
Administrative Assistant

**From:** Knotts, Jeff [<mailto:jknotts@greenville.k12.sc.us>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 10, 2011 11:35 AM  
**To:** Contact  
**Subject:** Duke Energy Rate Increase - Public Hearings

I spoke at the PSC's November 9, 2011 public hearing, concerning the requested rate increase by Duke Energy. Attached is a copy of my presentation. Please let me know if this is the proper method to provide the PSC my written presentation.

Thank you.

Jeffrey S. Knotts

Executive Director for Finance  
Greenville County Schools  
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Greenville, SC 29602-2848  
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[jknotts@greenville.k12.sc.us](mailto:jknotts@greenville.k12.sc.us)

All most everyone living in Greenville for the past 8 years was aware of and has seen the results of the Greenville County School's building program. We renovated 26 schools and built 47 new facilities to replace outdated facilities. What most people do not realize is the high energy efficiency systems we put in these schools to reduce utility expenses and consumption. These systems are controlled from one central point and adjusted based on the occupancy of our buildings. After hours, buildings are heated and cooled to a maintenance level. Lights and other systems that consume energy are also managed by our central system resulting in on demand service and reduced costs and consumption. For example, at the Central office the AC is turned back to night settings one hour before we leave.

These are some of the mechanical steps put in place to reduce our utility expense and consumption. Some of the non-mechanical steps include: working four, ten hours days during the summer and closing all district locations on Fridays. This saves approximately \$50,000 a day. There are five days during the school year when year-round employees will have to take vacation so we can again close the entire district and save \$50,000 a day. We also do not allow space heaters, individual microwaves and refrigerators. We have software that shuts down all computers at a set time each day in case an employee has forgotten to do so.

Again, these are just some of the mechanical and non-mechanical steps Greenville County School's has put in place to reduce our utility expenses and it is paying off.

I am here tonight to voice school district's concern about the proposed rate hike and its negative impact on our cost-cutting efforts to protect our classrooms.

From 2008 through 2011 our square footage, that receives power from Duke Energy, **increased** by 200,000 square feet to 9.6 million square feet.

In 2008 we used 126.1 million KWH, in 2011 we used 99.4 million KWH. **That is a reduction of 26.6 million KWH hours or 21.1%.**

**Simply put, we used 21% LESS in energy even though we increased our square footage.**

In 2008 our utility cost per square foot was \$1.20, in 2011 we reduced it to \$1.04. **That is a reduction of 16 cents per square foot or 13%.**

From 2008 to 2011 we reduced our Duke power bill from \$11.2 million to \$9.9 million. **That is a reduction of \$1.2 million or 11.3%.**

Greenville County Schools continues to look for ways to save.

I have provided just a short account of what the employees and students of Greenville County Schools have done during the past three years to reduce its utility bill.

The rate increase requested by Duke Energy **will erase all of it**. The requested rate increase will increase our power bill by approximately \$1.5 million, annually. It will increase our cost per square foot by 16 cents. That is what we saved.

To fund this \$1.5 million increase, Greenville County Schools will have to either increase our revenue, the State is not giving out more money, increase the property tax rate or reduce our expenditures. The \$1.5 million equals to the cost of 24 teaching positions.

This requested increase will also impact the District's employees whose wages have only increased 2% or less in the past three years.

We know Duke Energy has to cover its infrastructure cost so we don't object to increases that are reasonable. The requested increase is not reasonable.

Thank you for your time.